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Seventh Grade Social Studies Standard 6100-06 Adapting to a New Culture

Students will understand the diverse nature of Utah's peoples and cultures.

Topic: Adapting to a New Culture: The experience of Utah's American Indians

Objective: Students will investigate the contribution of Utah's religious and ethnic groups, including American Indians.

(Craig Sampson – author)

Desired Outcome

The students will examine the impact of European-American settlement on Native Americans in Utah by understanding their interactions with the European-American settlers.

Essential Question 1. What were some of the reasons that the American Indians in the territory of Utah and settlers did not live peacefully together.

Assessment:

The student can be given the opportunity to write his/her own ending to this story, either by inferring from reading the Utah Studies text, or by expressing personal values as to how the characters should resolve the situation.

More advanced students can do research the wars between the settlers and the native tribes in Utah. They might then write a summary of one or more of those conflicts from the point of view of the native tribes or the settlers. The Pioneer Library and Utah State Historical Society web sites are good places to begin.

Students in more basic skill ranges might discuss and then draw pictures of ways the native people of Utah procured food.

Overview:

When explorers, mountain men, Spanish Fathers, pioneers and soldiers came to Utah, They found different groups of people already living here. The Utes, Paiutes, Goshutes, and Navajos were some of them.

At first, the native peoples often traded with and helped the newcomers. Later on, though, as settlers came and began farming, hunting, fishing, using the scarce water and living on the land which had supported the native people, there began to be conflicts and disagreements.

As time went on, the native people began to steal cattle, horses and other things they needed from the settlers. When the settlers fought back, people were killed on both sides and because of limited attempts to understand one another, the wars began.

After years of fighting, the settlers, backed by government soldiers, moved the native people onto reservations.

Instructional Strategies:

Scenario:

You awaken and it's cold enough to see your breath. Looking around in the dark, You pull your blankets closer around you and listen... You hear familiar voices outside. It's your father and uncles. Your stomach growls so loudly that you think they'll hear you and then... you remember.

For days all there has been to eat is dark, brown tea, a few dried berries and some really old jerky from last summer.

Your uncles are talking louder now, and they sound angry. One says that winter has barely started and all the deer are gone. The other says they must go and take food from those who have it. Your father warns them of much trouble and danger for the family, but the older uncle says "I'd rather die with a full belly than starve in the cold!"

You hear their horses riding away on the hard frozen trail and fall back asleep in the icy night.

Then,



You awaken to the sound of your dogs barking and then both barrels of Dad's shotgun in quick succession.

You hear angry words and Dad's boots stomping on the wooden porch. You hurry, shivering, down the ladder from the sleeping loft.

As he comes through the door, you can see his woolen shirtsleeve, with a red stain spreading around the arrow piercing his upper arm!

"They've gone too far this time", he shouted "They took two cows, broke down the storeroom door and shot me when I ran 'em off!" Then, in a lower voice, "As soon as I get this arrow out, I'm goin' for the soldiers. We'll see how many of them get shot!"

Teacher's Role:

The teacher shows images of native people and early settlers, reading the above scenarios to the class, illustrating both the native and the settler's point of view in the matter of stealing food and livestock.

Materials:

Photos or other images of Utah Pioneers and Native Americans from the 1800's.
<http://www.uen.org>

A History of Utah's American Indians . Cuch, Forrest. 1998

See Resource websites for information and research at end of lessons.